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Communist China: A step-up in the tempo and intensity of attacks on Chief of State Liu Shao-chi and party general secretary Teng Hsiao-ping strongly suggests that the stage is finally being set for their disgrace and removal.

Numerous rallies and demonstrations reportedly have been held in Peking since mid-December to denounce the two. Madame Mao is reported to have told a crowd of Red Guards on 30 December that Liu is a "Khrushchev-like person" and that a confession he made in October was inadequate and therefore not acceptable to current leaders. According to a Red Guard poster seen by a foreign correspondent on 31 December, a pamphlet entitled "Vice Chairman Lin Piao's Statement on the Bourgeois Reactionary Line of State Chairman Liu Shao-chi and General Secretary Teng Hsiao-ping" will be distributed among Red Guards as a textbook.

Liu and Teng came under strong criticism at the party plenum in August, when Lin Piao replaced Liu as Mao's heir apparent, and demands for their dismissal have been presented in Red Guard posters from time to time since then. Although their political power was severely weakened, they appeared routinely at large turnouts of leaders at least through November and have retained their titles.

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